

REMARKS

We have carefully considered the Office Action dated November 19, 2007, in which all claims are rejected as anticipated by United States Patent Application Publication US2005/0197892 to Bilibin et al. We would like to thank the Examiner for a telephone interview in which the Bilibin reference and the claims were discussed. We would also like to thank the Examiner for review of and suggestions for the wording of the claims. We have amended the claims in accordance with the suggestions.

Specifically, we have amended the claims to more particularly point out that the system provides respective users, based on the entry of user identifiers, access to delivery status and other information relating to mailpieces that are directed to the users by others or sent by the users to others.

The invention as set forth in the independent claims, as amended, has a user enter his user identifier to gain access to the delivery status for mail pieces directed to the user by others as well as for the mail pieces sent by the user to others. The delivery status information for all of the mail pieces is linked to the user identifier – thus, mail service provided tracking numbers or user control of the mailing arrangements is not required. Further, the system provides access to other information, such as messages, images and so forth, that is associated with the mail pieces by including links to the information as part of the delivery status.

Using the current system, for example, the user enters his user identifier and gains access to the delivery status of otherwise unannounced mail pieces that are shipped to the user by others, since the delivery status information for the mail pieces is linked to the user identifier.

The Bilibin system does not operate in the same way. The Bilibin system provides a mechanism by which a user can purchase, through his user account, shipping services for goods that are to be shipped to the user. The user logs into his user account with a user identifier and directs how a particular package to be shipped. The system assigns a tracking number to the package, as shown, for example, in Fig. 58. The

tracking number may later be entered into the system to track the package. See, for example, Fig. 68, item 2035; par. 0425; Fig. 72, item 2035; par. 0444; Figs. 73-75, and so forth.

In addition, the Bilibin reference describes what is referred to as "manifest and inbound tracking," which provides tracking information for packages "shipped under the User's account." Par. 475. While the user may add other inbound packages for tracking, the user adds the packages by entering the assigned package tracking numbers into his user account. See, par. 0482. There is no teaching in Bilibin of providing to a user, based on entry of a user identifier, access to mail piece delivery status that is based on delivery status information that is linked to the user identifier, and in particular, access to delivery status of mail pieces that are directed to the user by others.

Accordingly, Bilibin does not anticipate the invention as set forth in the independent claims, as amended, because Bilibin does not show linking to user identifiers associated with respective users mail piece delivery status information for mail pieces that are directed by others to the respective users and sent by the respective users to others, as set forth in each independent claim, as amended.

The claims, as amended, should now be in form for allowance. We ask that the Examiner enter the amendments, reconsider the rejections of the claims, and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims. Alternatively, we request that the Examiner telephone the undersigned for a further interview before a next Office Action is issued.

Please charge any additional fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account No. 03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patricia A. Sheehan".

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